**American Civics: The Review**

**Unit III: The Age of Kings (500-1400)**

**The Byzantine Empire**

* Roman civilization continued under the Byzantine Empire at Constantinople

**Justinian and Theodora**

* Attempted to reunify the whole Roman Empire…and almost succeeded in 550
* Authored the *Corpus Juris Civilis*: a code of Roman Law that lasted until 1453
* *Corpus Juris Civilis* is the basis for medieval law in Europe
* The Byzantine Empire spoke Greek, not Latin
* Was Christian, not Pagan
* Eastern Orthodox not Roman Catholic

**The Dark Ages (500-800)**

* With the collapse of Roman law, Christianity becomes the stabilizing force of Europe
  + Europe is divided into geographic areas called dioceses, each headed by a bishop
* The Bishop of Rome is the head of all bishops and takes the title of pope
* Monasteries become the new centers of learning and education

**Charlemagne**

* Unified Europe in the largest empire between Rome and Napoleon in 1811
* Founder of the Carolingian dynasty
* Patron of the arts and learning, attempted to preserve Roman knowledge

**Feudalism**

* When royal governments could no longer protect the people, landed nobles offered protection in exchange for service – this system is called ***FEUDALISM***
* A warrior could take an oath of loyalty to a lord and become a ***VASSAL***
* Lords would provide land and financial support to the vassal, and the vassal would fight for the lord
* The grant of land to a vassal was called a ***FIEF***
* ***FEUDAL CONTRACT***: the set of rules that determined how the lord-vassal relationship worked
* Under the influence of the church, vassals were united under a code called knighthood
  + This institution included a code of conduct that governed civilized behavior called ***CHIVALRY***

**Governments**

* ***ABSOLUTE MONARCHIES*** were ruled by kings with total power over their subjects
* ***THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS***: the idea that a king’s power comes directly from God

**Manorialism**

* The manor was an agricultural estate run by a lord and worked by peasants
* Free peasants bound to the land of a manor were called ***SERFS***
* As trade between regions returned, gold and silver coins came in demand: ***MONEY ECONOMY*** replaced bartering
* ***COMMERCIAL CAPITALISM*:** investing in trade and goods to create profits

**The Islamic Empires**

* The Islamic Empire preserved much of the writings of the ancient Greeks, particularly Aristotle
  + Much of what we know of Aristotle’s writings come from Arabic libraries
* The Arabic States make numerous advancements in mathematics, science, chemistry, astronomy, and medicine that will inspire the Renaissance in the 1300 and 1400’s
* October 10, 732: Charles Martel “The Hammer” defeats the Umayyad Caliphate at Tours, France
  + Charles Martel is the grandfather of Charlemagne
  + Charles Martel stops the Islamic advance into Europe…
  + But Spain remains under Islamic control for the next 700 years

***Magna Carta* and the Formation of British Government**

* English nobles resent the growing power of the British king
* Runnymeade, 1215: British nobles force King John to sign *Magna Carta*, conferring basic rights to the lords and limits the monarch’s power
  + The United States Constitution was directly influenced by this document
* 1295: Edward I invites two knights and two residents from each county to meet with the Great Council of nobles, bishops and officials
  + The Great Council eventually became the House of Lords
  + The company of knights and county residents eventually became the House of Commons
* The British Parliament is the most important advance in government since republican government under Rome

**Unit IV: Toward a New Heaven and a New Earth (1400-1763)**

**The Renaissance**

* *Renaissance* means rebirth
  + Between 1350 and 1550 Europe witnessed a rebirth of classical antiquity and knowledge

Machiavelli: *Prince*

* *Prince*: deals with how to acquire and keep political power
* One must understand human nature, which is basically self-centered
* Humanism: the intellectual movement based on the study of the classic works of Greece and Rome

**The Reformation**

* Through indulgences…paying a fee…people could reduce their punishments in the afterlife
* Luther called his movement a “Reformation” but we call it “Protestantism”
* Henry broke away from the Catholic Church and formed the Anglican Church, or the Church of England, with himself as the head

**The Scientific Revolutions**

* For over 1500 years Aristotelian physics and philosophy governed the study of science and government
  + *Ptolemaic (geocentric) universe*: the Earth is at the center of the universe
* Copernicus argued that we lived in a *heliocentric* universe: the Sun is at the center
* Kepler’s 3 Laws of Motion
  + First Law: All orbits are not circular but elliptical
  + Destroyed Aristotelian Physics
* Newton’s Third Law: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction
* By challenging Aristotle, science paved the way for philosophers to develop new ways of thinking about human nature, politics, and government

**The Age of the Enlightenment**

* These political philosophies directly influenced the American Revolution

John Locke

* Locke believed humans are born as a *tabula rasa* (blank slate): we learn from reason, environment, and experience
* ***REASON***: an appeal to facts and rational criticism

Montesquieu on Government

* Three basic types of government:
  + Republics are suitable for small states
  + Despotism works for large states
  + Monarchy works for medium-sized states
* Framed the idea of ***SEPARATION OF POWERS***: a system of checks and balances between parts of government

Voltaire on Tolerance

* Treatise on Toleration: reminds governments that “all men are brothers under God.”

Adam Smith on Economics

* *The Wealth of Nations*: the government should leave the economy alone – practice the doctrine of ***LAISSEZ-FAIRE***
* Government has three purposes:
  + Protect society from invasion
  + Defend against injustice
  + Maintain public works (roads and canals)

Rousseau on Government

* People adopt government to protect private property

**The Age of Discovery**

* Whoever could find a direct route to the Spice Islands would become very rich…and powerful
* Europe saw an opportunity to spread Christianity and gain an ally against the Muslims
* **The motives for the Age of Discovery: God, Gold, and Glory**
* Columbus proposes going west across the Atlantic to reach the Spice Islands
* Europeans were pretty sure the Earth was round
  + They were convinced that Columbus had grossly (hilariously) underestimated how far he had to go
* Columbus was the first European to have contact with the New World
  + He DID NOT discover America…can’t discover something if people are already there!
* Introduced slavery to the New World
* Died never knowing he had crashed into North America

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**The Rise of the *Pax Britannica***

* By defeating the Spanish Armada, England becomes the world’s new superpower
* First step towards Britain claiming a true world empire
* The *Pax Britannica*: Britain ensures a stable peace that will eventually allow the birth of the United States

**Pre-Colonial America**

1. Christopher Columbus
   1. He **DOES NOT** discover America in October, 1492
   2. He gets lost thinking he’s found Asia and **NEVER REALIZED HE HAS CRASHED INTO NORTH AMERICA**
   3. Essentially starts slavery in the New World
2. Jamestown, Virginia
   1. Founded in 1607, it is the first permanent British Colony in North America
   2. Led by Captain John Smith, Pocahontas, and the Powhatan tribe
3. Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony
   1. Founded in 1620 by the Pilgrims who were seeking religious freedom
   2. They all nearly starved to death in December, 1620. Saved by Squanto
   3. Celebrated the first Thanksgiving in 1621
4. Slavery begins in the 1600’s
   1. Triangle Trade was the primary economic trading system of this period
      * 1. Slaves sent from Africa to America (Middle Passage)
        2. Slaves worked and harvested raw goods sent to Europe
        3. Europe sends finished goods, money and guns to Africa
5. The Salem Witch Trials, 1692
   1. Comes at the end of a period of 300 years of witchcraft hysteria where close to 5 million women are hanged or burned to death for witchcraft.
6. The Ivy Leagues: They are the oldest universities in the United States and some of the finest and best in the world
   1. Harvard University, 1636
   2. The College of William and Mary, 1693
   3. Yale University, 1701
   4. Princeton University, 1746
   5. Columbia University, 1754
   6. Brown University, 1764

**Colonial America**

I: The Original 13 Colonies

1. The Southern Colonies
   1. Maryland
   2. Virginia
   3. North Carolina
   4. South Carolina
   5. Georgia
2. The Middle Colonies
   1. Pennsylvania
   2. New Jersey
   3. Delaware
   4. New York
3. The New England Colonies
   1. Connecticut
   2. New Hampshire
   3. Rhode Island
   4. Massachusetts Bay

II. The Road to Revolution (1750-1763):

1. The French and Indian War
   1. Also known as Seven Years War
   2. Fought between England and France (with Native American Allies)
   3. Fought for control of North America
2. Outcomes
   1. England wins and gains control of North America
   2. George Washington becomes famous for his military adventures

**Key Concepts**

1. Why are Justinian and Theodora so important in saving western civilization? What role did the Byzantine Empire play in preserving the knowledge of the ancients?
2. We have studied some great *female* leaders in history: Hatshepsut, Theodora, Cleopatra, Isabella, and Elizabeth. Who is the most important female ruler in history and why?
3. What were the positions of the Enlightenment Philosophers on governments and human nature? Can you identify, summarize, and explain the positions of Locke and Montesquieu and how they influenced the United States?
4. After the fall of Rome and the breakdown of royal governments, local nobles, barons, and lords assumed control their various territories through feudalism. What is feudalism and is it a fair system of government? Assume the United States has disintegrated, and the federal government is nonexistent. Could feudalism return and what would happen if it did?
5. Should we consider Christopher Columbus a hero or a villain for his actions? Should we celebrate Columbus Day given his actions?
6. Explain the significance of *Magna Carta* and who it helped advance constitutional democracy in Great Britain and the western world.